



# FACT SHEET

## AIR FORCE NUCLEAR TASK FORCE

### BACKGROUND

Over the past year, the Air Force received indicators of a decline in nuclear mission focus and an erosion of nuclear expertise. The Air Force carefully evaluated the findings/recommendations of several internal and external reviews and has undertaken many initiatives to improve procedures, logistics, and sustainment of the nuclear enterprise.

The Secretary of the AF created a Nuclear Task Force which developed a strategic roadmap to rebuild our nuclear capability. The AF Nuclear Task Force (AFNTF) coordinated actions, built on current initiatives, and integrated additional actions into a comprehensive, actionable way ahead—the Roadmap, *Reinvigorating the Nuclear Enterprise*. This cumulative set of findings, root causes, and recommendations synthesizes findings/recommendations of previously mentioned reports.

### CHARTER

The charter of the AFNTF was to:

- Coordinate and synchronize the ongoing implementation of specific actions underway in response to the Minot and Taiwan incidents
- Develop, in coordination with USSTRATCOM, other DoD components, and interagency partners, a strategic roadmap to rebuild and restore capabilities and confidence in our stewardship of the AF nuclear enterprise
- Assess and recommend options for organizational alternatives and command/responsibility arrangements
- Serve as AF focal point for coordination with and/or support to other nuclear-related panels, commissions or review groups outside the AF

### TASK FORCE LEADERSHIP / MEMBERS

The AFNTF is led by Maj. Gen. C. Donald Alston, Director, Nuclear Operations, Plans and Requirements. Bio available: [http://www.af.mil/bios/bio\\_print.asp?bioid=7896&page=1](http://www.af.mil/bios/bio_print.asp?bioid=7896&page=1)

The task force provided immediate access to nuclear experts throughout the AF in developing a way ahead for the Air Force. The Task Force was comprised of approximately 30 subject matter experts representing all facets of the AF nuclear enterprise and other specialty areas. Air Force major commands and the Air Staff all played an integral part of this effort with broad collaboration at all levels. The task force also benefited from insights from mission partners outside the AF to include: USSTRATCOM, OSD, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, Joint Staff, National Nuclear Security Administration, and the RAND Corporation.

### PURPOSE OF ROADMAP

Provides fundamental guidance to organize, train, and equip nuclear forces to ensure effective nuclear deterrence/ flawless nuclear surety.

### REPORTS REVIEWED

#### **Defense Science Board (DSB) Task Force on Nuclear Weapons Surety – Gen. (Ret) Welch, OSD**

Review of all nuclear surety practices (Nuclear Weapons Surety—Materiel, personnel, and procedures which contribute to the security, safety, and reliability of nuclear weapons and to the assurance that there will be no nuclear weapon accidents, incidents, unauthorized weapon detonations, or degradation in performance at the target.)

#### **Blue Ribbon Review (BRR) – Maj. Gen. Peyer, USAF**

Examine org structure; command authorities/responsibilities; personnel & assignment policies; education/training

**Command Directed Investigation (CDI) (Classified), CSAF-directed, USAF**

Investigate facts/circumstances surrounding unauthorized transfer between Minot and Barksdale AFBs

**ADM Donald Report (Classified), SECDEF-directed, OSD**

Investigation into the Shipment of Sensitive Missile Components to Taiwan. Facts/circumstances surrounding shipment of sensitive components provided to the Government of Taiwan

**AF Inventory and Assessment: Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Weapons-Related Material, Maj. Gen. McCoy and Brig. Gen. Alston, USAF**

Conduct inventories and comprehensive review of all policies, processes, and procedures at all AF installations w/ nuclear weapons and nuclear weapons-related material

**Comprehensive Assessment of Nuclear Sustainment (CANS)- Brig. Gen. Thomas, USAF**

Comprehensive recommendations outlining ways ahead for improving nuclear sustainment enterprise

**SECDEF Task Force on DoD Nuclear Weapons Management (Dr Schlesinger), SECDEF-directed**

Organizational, procedural and policy improvements necessary for stewardship/operation of nuclear weapons, delivery vehicles, and sensitive components across the Department of Defense

**10 MAJOR TAKEAWAYS****Culture of Compliance; Precision and Reliability**

- Consolidate nuclear sustainment under AFMC/AFNWC
- Establish positive inventory control measures for nuclear weapons-related materiel
- Enhance Nuclear Inspection Processes

**Accountable, sustained mission excellence**

- Establish Air Force Global Strike Command
- Align Training, Education, Career / Force Development

**Institutional Focus, Stewardship, Accountability**

- Establish A10
- Improve USAF Corporate Processes
- Create strategic plans that address long-term nuclear requirements
- Charge USecAF with broad nuclear policy and oversight responsibilities
- Establish Nuclear Oversight Board to Implement Roadmap with Mission Partners

**TIMELINE**

26 Jun 08	Acting SECAF / VCSAF Memos (Nuclear priority / Task Force standup)
7 Jul 08	AF Nuclear Task Force standup -- Schlesinger Panel support / Strategic Roadmap
26 Jul 08	AFNTF Progress Report provided to SECAF
26 Aug 08	Draft Roadmap provided to SECAF
12 Sep 08	Schlesinger Panel Report on AF Nuclear Enterprise (Phase I) -- SECDEF Task Force on DoD Nuclear Weapons Management
18 Sep 08	Nuclear Summit – Decisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Expanded Nuclear Weapons Center (NWC) responsible for all nuclear sustainment and responsibility for all sustaining activities inside CONUS Weapon Storage Areas</li> <li>▪ Stronger inspection process built upon common policies and procedures effectively integrated with the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA)</li> <li>▪ Consolidation and expansion of lead-in and follow-on, mission specific training within Air Education &amp; Training Command for security personnel assigned to nuclear duties</li> <li>▪ Standup of new Headquarters Air Force (HAF) / A10 staff office, split out from the existing HAF/A3/5 office, to provide singular focus on nuclear matters in the Air Force headquarters</li> </ul>
1-3 Oct 08	Corona – Decision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standup new nuclear-focused MAJCOM</li> </ul>
24 Oct 08	AF Nuclear Task Force Roadmap Unveiled

(Current as of October 2008)

**AFNTF Public Affairs**

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E-mail: af.nuctaskforce@pentagon.af.mil